

Lisela language

Lisela (Indonesian: *bahasa Lisela*), also called Li Enyorot,^[3] is an Austronesian language; in 1989 it was spoken by about 11,900 Lisela people mostly living in the northern part of Indonesian island Buru (Indonesian: *Pulau Buru*). It is also preserved among the small Lisela community on the Ambon Island.^[4]

The language belongs to the Sula–Buru group of Central Maluku branch of Malayo-Polynesian languages. It has two dialects, major Lisela and minor Tagalisa, the latter is used by the inhabitants of the north-east coast of Buru.^{[4][5][6]} The language is dying as most Lisela people switch either to the national language of Indonesia, Indonesian, or to the Amboinese variety of the Malay language (*Melayu Ambon*). The latter is widely used in the Maluku Islands as a lingua franca and is a local form of Malay with additions of the local lexicon.^{[4][5]}

The language most closely related to Lisela is Buru, especially its dialect *Masarete* – their lexical similarity is 68%.^[7] Thus many sources regard Lisela as a dialect, though the most diverging, of Buru. Lisela had also borrowed much from the Sula language, as a result of the interaction between the Lisela and Sula people living together as the northern Buru coast.^[3] The language has no writing system. The most detailed study of Lisela language was conducted in the 1980s by Charles E. Grimes and Barbara Dix Grimes – Australian missionaries and ethnographers, active members of SIL International (they should not be confused with Joseph E. Grimes and Barbara F. Grimes, Charles' parents, also known Australian ethnographers).^{[8][9][10]}

Lisela	
<i>bahasa Lisela</i>	
Native to	Indonesia, Maluku
Region	Buru Island
Native speakers	(12,000 cited 1989) ^[1]
Language family	Austronesian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Malayo-Polynesian ▪ Central-Eastern ▪ Central Maluku ▪ Sula–Buru ▪ Buru ▪ Lisela
Writing system	none
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	lcl
Glottolog	lise1239 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/lise1239) ^[2]

References

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